



## Palaces and Gardens of Persia

By Yves Porter, Arthur Thevenart

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In both decoration and design, the grand buildings and gardens of traditional Persia consistently refer to "paradise." The very word itself refers to a sense of heavenly perfection, derived from an early Iranian term for "the Shah's royal hunting grounds."

The fine touches of heaven that lie behind the colorful tiled façades of palace pavilions and mosques still shine in this richly illustrated and scholarly work. Enter gardens with intricate fountains and majestic ponds fed by water that is sourced from underground aqueducts dating to the 6th century. From ancient mirrored shrines of Shiraz and geometric gardens of Kashan to the ornate domes of Ispahan, here is a glorious photographic timeline drawn in water, brick, and ceramic ornamentation along the 3,000 years of the region's architecture.

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## **Palaces and Gardens of Persia** By Yves Porter, Arthur Thevenart Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2463838 in Books
- Published on: 2004-01-17
- Released on: 2004-01-17
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.50" h x 1.00" w x 9.80" l, 4.24 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 240 pages

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About the Author

**Yves Porter** is a professor of Islamic art history at the University of Aix-en-Provence and at the Institute of Art and Archeology in Paris. He is the author of *The Art of the Islamic Tile* (Flammarion, 2002).

**Arthur Thévenart's** work as a photographer has lead him to travel extensively across the Middle East.

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